

NATIONAL RECORDER.

Containing Essays upon subjects connected with Political Economy, Science, Literature, &c.; Papers read before the Agricultural Society of Philadelphia; a Record of passing Events; Selections from Foreign Magazines, &c. &c.

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Miscellany.

FROM BLACKWOOD'S EDINBURGH MAGAZINE.

On the Literary Characters of Bishop Warburton and Dr. Johnson.

(Continued from p. 181.)

If we proceed to compare their respective intellects, it will, perhaps, be rather difficult to adjust the balance of superiority. In the first great characteristics of genius, unbounded comprehension of mind, and receptibility of images—in the power of communicating, to mental matter, that living energy and alimantal nourishment—that intellectual leaven which gives it the capacity of being kneaded and worked up into an exhaustless diversity of shapes and figurations—in the power of extracting and drawing forth all that human reason, when bent to any given point, can educe—in the power of conceiving mighty plans in the mind without destroying, in the grasp of the whole, the beauty and the symmetry of the parts—in these first and foremost requisites of genius, the endowments of both seem very evenly divided, though the balance, if at all, preponderates on the side of Johnson. He had, certainly, more of the vivifying mind of a poet—more of that brightness of imagination which clothes all objects in a vesture of splendour—more of that fervid fulness which deepens and swells the current of thought—but not more of the boundless expansion and versatility of mind—not more of the variegated exuberance of imagery, or expatiating ubiquity of fancy. He had, perhaps, not so much of that wide sweep of intellect, which, like a drag-net, draws all within its reach into its capacious reservoir of illustration, and which diminishes and contracts the resources of ingenuity by its extraordinary power of exhaustion; nor had he any part of that fiery fervour, that indomitable vehemence, which blazed forth in Warburton! with which he could burst through every bondage and overcome every obstacle; which it was impossible to withstand in its at-

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tacks, or delay in its course; and which, like the burning simoom of the Arabian deserts, absolutely devastated and laid waste the regions of literature, with the sultriness of its ardour, and the unquenchableness of its flame.

In logical strength and acuteness—in the faculty of seeing immediately the weak side of an argument, and exposing its fallacy with clearness and force—in those powers which Dr. Johnson has called the grappling irons of the understanding—each was superlatively pre-eminent; and it would be difficult to decide which is the superior. Both great masters of the science of reasoning—endowed with that penetration of discernment, which in a moment pierces through the sophistications of argumentation, and unravels the mazes of subtlety with intuitive quickness and precision—they were yet considerably different in the manner in which those talents were displayed. In Johnson, the science of reasoning has the appearance of being more a natural faculty; and in Warburton, more an artificial acquirement. The one delighted in exhibiting it in its naked force and undivided power—the other was fonder of dividing it into distinctions, and reducing it into parts. The one delighted to overwhelm and confound—the other rather to lead into intricacies, and puzzle with contradictions. The one wielded his weapons with such overpowering strength, that skill was useless, and art unnecessary—the other made use of them as an experienced fencing-master, whom great natural strength, joined with much acquired skill, render irresistible. In the one, the first blow was generally the decider of the combat—in the other, the contest was often more protracted, though the success in the end not less sure. It was the glory of the one, to evince at once his power, and, by a mighty blow, to destroy the antagonist who assailed him—while it was at once the delight and pride of the other, to deprive his opponent gradually of every particle of armour and weapon of defence; and when he had riven away every obsta-

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cle and protection, exultingly and mercilessly to despatch him.

In real and true taste, Johnson was unquestionably the superior. Discarding all those systems of criticism which had so long fettered and confined the efforts of talent, he first established criticism on the basis and foundation of common sense; and thus liberated our future Shakspeares from those degrading chains and unworthy shackles, which custom had so long allowed the weak to impose upon the strong. His critical decisions—wherever personal hostility did not interfere, and wherever his want of the finer and more delicate perception of inanimate or intellectual beauty did not incapacitate him from judging correctly—are, and ever will be, incontestable for their truth, and unequalled for their talent, and carry with them that undeniable authority and weight, which nothing can question or withstand. Had he been, perhaps, a little less prejudiced, and a little more largely gifted with that fine feeling, which is as necessary to form a great critic as a great poet, he would certainly have been entitled to take a higher place in the province of criticism than any man who went before, or shall hereafter succeed him. Of this true taste, in Warburton, there was a most lamentable deficiency: with an equal lack of the more delicate and imaginative qualifications for critical judgment, he possessed none of that sound discriminative power, and unerring rectitude of tact, which so eminently distinguished Johnson. The bias of his mind in criticism seems totally perverted and warped, and the obliquity of his critical judgment is often as unaccountable as it is amazing. A great part of this is owing to the bigoted adherence which he placed in the systems of the French critics, so popular in England in the beginning of the last century; and a much greater, to his own unconquerable propensity for adjusting and fashioning every thing according to the decrees of some standard hypothesis which had taken possession of his mind, and on which, like the bed of Procrustes, he racked and tortured every unfortunate subject, till he had reduced it, by a process of dislocation, into some conformity with his theories. His fondness for Dr. Bentley, and Dr. Bentley's style of criticism, was also another drawback in his qualifications: from him he derived that inextinguishable rage for emendation, which has descended, like the prophet's mantle, from critic to critic in succession; and, indeed, what Bentley has performed upon Milton, War-

burton has no less scrupulously performed upon Shakspeare, though perhaps, with much more acuteness and ingenuity, in the exercise of his editorial capacity. For wanting this emendatory ardour—or, as he would call it, this critical *vous*—he despised Dr. Johnson; though, for his superabundance of it, Dr. Johnson might much more justly have despised him. To Warburton, criticism was little else than ingenuity in inventing fresh varieties of the text, and dexterity and plausibility in their explanation. An author, chosen for the subject of critical illustration, was to him nothing else than a lamb led out to the slaughter, for the purpose of trying the sharpness of his knife; or an anvil, by frequently striking which his commentator might elicit scintillations and sparkles of his own. If he ever shines, it is always at the expense of his author. He seems utterly incapable of entering into the spirit of his text—of identifying himself with his subject—of losing his own individuality and consequence in his author and his author's beauties. He had none of that true and refreshing spirit of criticism, which pours down a fresh radiance on the withering beauties of antiquity, and discloses new graces wherever its illuminating resplendences are thrown, and of which, like the skilful varnisher of some ancient painting, renews and renovates, in the subject, its brilliancy and richness of colouring, without altering the character of its loveliness, or impairing the symmetry of its proportions.

With the power of wit, both were almost equally gifted; and the precise nature and description of that wit was in both pretty nearly the same. It was not that delicately gentle and refined species which distinguished Addison, and which gave an almost evanescent air to the humour of his pages—but that coarse and forcible strength of wit, or rather humour, which it is impossible to withstand, and which breaks upon an adversary as a torrent impetuous and overwhelming—absolutely stunning and confounding with its vehemence, its energy, and its force. Those who wish to see this species of wit in its highest perfection, cannot be better referred than to the controversial writings of Warburton, or of Dr. Bentley, from whom Warburton adopted his style in controversy. It was this overflowing and vigorous possession of wit which rendered Johnson so powerful in conversation, and enabled Warburton in controversy to defy the hosts of enemies who assailed him. Of those

enemies, many were more exactly learned as to the point in question than himself—many equally sound reasoners—and, what is of no small advantage in reasoning, had a much better cause to defend, but they were all in the end worsted, defeated, and put to flight, by the auxiliary sallies of his wit, which came forth in volleys as unexpected as they were irresistible. That this species of wit should frequently be coupled with scurrility, was what might readily be anticipated—it was totally destitute of delicacy, and had no refinement or polish. It perhaps cannot better be described, than by comparing it with the wit of Addison, to which it was, in all its shapes, totally dissimilar. The one was a weapon infinitely more powerful—though the other required much more of dexterity and science in its application. The former was much more the instrument of a barbarian—the latter of a civilized combatant. The one was more fitted for the lighter skirmishes of intellectual warfare, and softened courtliness of social intercourse—the other more adapted for those contests, where no quarter is given and no indulgence is expected. In the one wit was so highly polished, as frequently to lose its effect—in the other, it was often so coarse and personal, as to defeat its very purpose. In the one, it is the arch smile of contemptuous scorn—in the other, the loud horse-laugh of ferocious defiance. The one was more fitted for the castigation of manners—the other better adapted for the concussion of minds. The wit of the former was, like the missile of the Israelite, often overcoming, from the skill with which it was thrown—and that of the latter, the ponderous stone of Ajax laid hold of with extraordinary strength, and propelled with extraordinary fury. In short, the wit of Addison, when compared with that of Warburton and Johnson, was what the polished sharpness of the rapier is to the ponderous weight of the battle-axe, or as the innocuous brilliancy of the lightning, to the overpowering crash of the thunderbolt.

In poetical genius and capability, it would perhaps be unfair to compare them. What Warburton has written in verse, was merely the first juvenile trying of his pen, and therefore hardly could hope to rival the mature and laboured poetical compositions of Johnson; yet we may doubt whether, if Warburton had written more of poetry, he would have written better, or ever risen above mediocrity in the efforts of poetical talent. Of those higher qualifications of imagination and sensibility,

which every true poet must possess, he was, as well as Johnson, utterly destitute; but he had not, like Johnson, a mind stored with a rich fund of poetical images, or a nice perception of harmony in sound, or melody in versification. His translations are merely the productions of a schoolboy, and such productions as many a schoolboy would be ashamed to own. He seems to have possessed no ear attuned to the harmony of numbers—no fondness for the music of rhyme, or the march of periods. In this department of genius, therefore, he was utterly inferior to Johnson, who, if he did not possess the fine eye and highest exaltation of a poet, could clothe every subject he descanted upon with sonorous grandeur of verse, and gorgeous accompaniments of fancy.

In the beauty of style, and the ornaments of language, Johnson, it is well known, was most immeasurably superior. His writings have given an increase of correctness and purity, a transfusion of dignity and strength to our language, which is unexampled in the annals of literature, and which corrected, in their influence on our dialect, the diffused tameness of Addison, and the colloquialism of Swift. Whatever nearer approaches have been made to perfection in our language, have all been established on the foundation of his writings; and, perhaps, it would not be exceeding the bounds of justice to affirm, that more is due to him in the refinement of the English tongue, than to any man in any language or in any country, with the single exception of Cicero. If his own style itself is not the best model in our language, it is from it certainly that the best model must be formed; and, whoever shall in the end attain that summit of perfection, it will be from the copious fountain of Johnson that his materials must be supplied. Of the graces and elegancies of diction, Warburton, on the contrary, had no conception: his thoughts were turned out in the dress which lay nearest to his hand; and often their multiplicity was too great to allow him time to find for each a proper and suitable covering of expression. To harmony in the structure of cadences, or splendour in the finishing of sentences, he was utterly void of pretension, and was, moreover, totally destitute of the power of selection or choice of words. Yet, he cannot justly be accused of neglect or contempt of the beauties of style, for no one altered more incessantly, or altered to less purpose, than Warburton. In one of his letters, he acknowledges, that there are

many thousand corrections and alterations merely of language in the second edition of his *Julian*; and, to my own knowledge, there are no less than 20,000 verbal corrections in the several editions of his *Divine Legation*, almost every one of which has no other effect than to render that worse which before was bad. He compared himself, in his alterations, to the bear who licks into form its shapeless offspring: but, with little felicity of comparison, for his alterations, though they always bring down and reduce to tameness the original nervous force of the expression, have seldom the effect of adding to its elegance or removing its infirmities. Very different, in this respect, was Johnson's character in writing, who is, like Shakspeare, hardly ever known to have altered or corrected his productions after publication; and whose mastery of diction was such, that it immediately brought, at his command, the best and most appropriate language which his subject required. The answering powers of his expression, were always exactly proportioned to the demand of his thought: there is never any incongruity of this kind perceptible in his writings; what he thought strongly, he could express forcibly and well; and what he had once written, became fixed—and fixed, because it was impossible for alteration to improve, or correction to amend it. The greatest fault, perhaps, in his style, is the want of flexibility—the want of variety adapted for every varying occasion: it was too uniform to alter—it was too stiff to bend—its natural tone was too high to admit of a graceful descent—the same was the expression, and the same the pompousness of language, whether he descanted as a moralist, or complained as an advertiser: whether he weighed in his balance the intellects of Shakspeare and Milton, or denounced, with threats of punishment, against the person or persons, unknown, who had pirated a paper of his *Idler*. In Warburton's diction, which was uniformly faulty, it is needless to expatiate on any particular faults; we may, however, mention that it was overrun with foreign idioms, and exotic phraseology, and that it particularly abounds in Gallicisms, which almost disgrace every sentence. In both, the style doubtless took its tincture from the peculiar complexion of their minds; and while in the one it swelled into majestic elegance and dignified strength, in the other it broke out into uncouth harshness and uncultivated force.

(To be concluded.)

MORAL SCIENCE.*

In physical science there is no way of becoming acquainted with the properties of any external object, or of the rules by which it is governed, but by a careful induction and comparison of particulars which have been observed respecting it. But in the sciences which relate to man the case is widely different. The faculties and passions by which every individual is conscious that he himself is actuated, and which, with suitable allowances, operate in a similar manner on all mankind, become in all cases in which man is concerned the real principles upon which our reasoning ought to proceed; and the chief use of the facts contained in statistical tables is merely to correct any misapprehension of those principles into which we may fall; and not to supersede the authority of the principles themselves. The statesman who founds his measures upon a thorough knowledge of the main springs of human action, will never greatly miss his way; but he who is guided solely by the assistance of tables, can never be sure how far, or in what way, peculiarities in education, society, or government, may have contributed to produce the results which they exhibit. To suppose that by heaping together, or poring over any description of official returns, it can be discovered by an arithmetical operation what course of legislation or policy any country ought in its particular circumstances to adopt, we conceive to be a dangerous delusion.

[*Quarterly Rev. No. 47.*

FOR THE NATIONAL RECORDER.

FILIAL AFFECTION.

I was forcibly struck with an interesting instance of filial affection which met my observation in the person of a little boy, who perished on board the brig *Sine*, which was shipwrecked in the month of September, 1817, on her passage from Liverpool to Boston. The vessel, in the early part of her voyage, had the misfortune to run down the brig *Dash*, which was sunk in the encounter. This accident, so disastrous to the latter, was almost equally deleterious to the *Sine*, for the injury she sustained was so important, that the captain deemed it necessary to return to Liverpool to repair. This object she was not however permitted to effect, for shortly after, she

* We respectfully recommend this extract to the attention of the Philadelphia Society for the promotion of American Manufactures.

struck on the Platters, off the Welsh coast, near to the Skerries lighthouse. The water rushed in with great rapidity, and she began to sink. The scene that ensued was dreadful. The vessel, besides her crew, carried thirty-two passengers, and she had but two boats attached, one a long boat and the other a very small one; consequently some of the unfortunates on board must inevitably perish. In this state of affairs, amidst the agonizing shrieks of despair and terror, the boats were filled, and were about to put off, while the boy I have mentioned and his mother yet remained on the wreck. The mother was refused admittance, but it was agreed to receive the child into the boat. But the mind of the infant was of no common mould; the hope of self preservation was not sufficient to induce him to desert a mother in distress, and to the hand that was stretched to save him, he gave a firm denial. "No," said he, "I will remain and die with my mother!" He did remain, and clasped in the reciprocated embrace of filial and maternal affection, they sunk together into the bosom of the unrelenting deep. T.

INSANITY.

The late Dr. Willis, in his evidence before a committee of parliament, in 1789, averred that *nine* out of *ten* cases of insanity recovered, if placed under his care *within three months from the attack*—an assertion which was discredited generally at the time it was made, both by physicians and the public: but Dr. Burrows's table, allowing its correctness, fully justifies the allegation as far as the remediable nature of the malady is involved; and we are happily furnished with evidence which will prove to some still more corroborative of Dr. Willis's position; for it appears that in *La Salpêtrière*, at Paris, one of the best conducted lunatic institutions in Europe, "the proportion of cures of recent cases, exclusive of the fatuous, idiotic, and epileptic, was in 1806 and 1807, according to Dr. Carter, almost as high as that of Dr. Willis;" and even in other public institutions, in which the remedies have been applied early, the success has not been much under this average.

In an article on "insanity and mad houses," given about three years since in this journal, some of our readers may recollect to have found the economy and general regulations of an asylum at York spoken of with much approbation. The

institution alluded to is named the Retreat; it is conducted by an individual of the society of Friends, and is devoted, we believe, exclusively to insane persons belonging to that body. Now it is a remarkable fact, that in spite of the most judicious and humane treatment on the part of the superintendents of this establishment, the number of patients restored to their senses and society is greatly inferior, not only to the proportions stated above, but even to that of several other institutions in which there is confessedly still much room for improvement, with regard both to moral and medical management. How is this to be accounted for? Dr. Burrows presents the following solution of the difficulty, and from a happy combination of compliment and censure upon the conductors of the Retreat, deduces an inference, as he conceives, with the force almost of demonstrative evidence, in favour of medical treatment in cases of mental disease.

"The York Retreat (says Dr. Burrows) excels every other asylum for lunatics in moral qualities. But in the number of absolute cures it is not on a par either with the London or Paris hospitals, and in this respect has much about the same relation to the cures in the former, as Charenton has to those in the latter; and possibly for a similar reason, viz. that physical remedies are too lightly regarded, and therefore too little employed. In the Retreat, it is true, patients are admitted who are excluded from Bethlem and St. Lukes; therefore the proportions of cures ought to be greatly in favour of those hospitals. But if the number cured in the Retreat be compared with that in the Newcastle asylum, which receives the same description of cases, and where medical means are more fully tried, the ratio of success will be seen to be inferior in the former. Having the fullest conviction of the great efficacy of medicine in the majority of cases of insanity, I have ever viewed with regret the little confidence professed by the benevolent conductors of the Retreat in its powers; and have always considered that the exercise of a more energetic remedial plan of treatment was the only thing required to render the system they pursue perfect."

Should the manager of the institution to which we now advert, be induced, from the suggestions of Dr. Burrows and others, to make the required alteration in his plan, and the result prove favourable, there could then exist no reasonable doubt that Mr. Tuke has not hitherto duly appreciated the efficacy of medicine: as the matter now

stands, it must be admitted that the circumstances of individuals received into his and other asylums, may not be sufficiently similar to warrant these comparative inferences. A census made of the proportion of Quakers who are the victims of mental malady to the numbers of their whole body, would, we believe, prove that these awful visitations are with them much less frequent than with society at large; and it is exceedingly probable that when madness does occur among individuals, marked as these are by steadiness of character and sobriety of habit, it is more frequently the result of constitutional bias, and therefore less likely to be beneficially influenced by remedial agents. We remark too (without meaning to convey any thing like a reflection on other reports), that Mr. Tuke must be expected to be more than ordinarily careful not to declare patients cured till he believes them actually and *permanently* restored. [Quart. Rev.]

ON ERUDITION AND PHILOSOPHY.

BY D'ISRAELI.

It is necessary to discriminate between men of erudition, and men of philosophy. We must employ the French word *erudit*, for want of a synonymous appellation.

A numerous class of students devotes their days to researches in almost every species of knowledge; and without any profundity of observation, or impulse of genius, collects bodies of facts, which may serve as materials for literary speculation. But of these, few have invigorated their reason, enlarged their mind, or seized on those graces which delight in elegant composition. We are at once astonished and disgusted at their vast reading; they seem to know every thing that requires not to be known.

With them, persevering study stands in lieu of extensive genius, and a long memory in place of a bright fancy. It is not who has greater talents, but who has read most. Philosophy consists of reflection; erudition of reading. As one man cannot read much more than another, in the same given time, the erudits, at a certain period of life, are, therefore, all nearly equal, in point of ability. It is not so in philosophy; there one man in a year may reach farther, than another in all his life; time, therefore, may make an erudit, but it is genius only which can form a philosopher.

When the elaborate labours of an erudit, are at length published, it is discovered,

that he has no skill in the art of composition. This numerous race of literati, has no conception of that delight in composition, without which, the writer is in vain learned. Some consider the pleasures of literature as not only superfluous, but criminal, and that the delight arising from the perusal of exquisite composition is derived from an effeminate and corrupt state of mind: while others imagine that a reflection, they might happen to make, would only insult their reader's understanding. An annalist is therefore preferred to an historian; Hume is censured, for intermingling with his lucid narrative, his acute reflections; and they affirm that they are capable of reflecting for themselves. But this is neither modesty nor truth.

Among reasoning men, such students have occasioned a great odium to literature; and if, as it cannot be denied, the pursuits of letters have been often satirized, it has been owing to their laborious trifling, and impertinent information. Montaigne has declaimed against them, in various parts of his works. Frequently they fix on some fantastic topic, and fill their frivolous volume with the most laborious erudition. Among these I have discovered the following extraordinary works. The history of beards—and another of wigs—of learned dirty men—of learned men married to shrews—on literary bastards—on learned misanthropes—on paper clothes—and on terms of abuse in the Hebrew, Latin, and Greek languages. There are likewise the history of cats, and another of rats, both supposed to be written as a satire on these inept researches. It is not, indeed, sufficient to write about, but to reason on antiquity; and a student hardly merits the honours of learning, whose science consists in an arid knowledge of words, or customs, and who renders some of the most pleasing investigations repulsive to men of taste.

Do we not abuse too often the word learning? He is honoured with the title, who has only retained by rote, obsolete customs, extinct characters, and whatever relates to past ages. But he who is more solicitous of familiarizing himself to his own times, and is conversant with whatever relates to his own century, who has little by rote, and a great deal by thinking, him we degrade to a lower department, and we call him a man of reading. He who hazards not a word in his latinity, but which is authorized by the use of Cicero, is saluted as a scholar; yet should another not be quite so lexicographic in his composition, but as eloquent as Cicero, we

should consider him as of inferior learning to his pedantic rival. If a classical scholar, versifies in Greek an English poem, which, in the most favourable view, is only acting well the schoolboy in the maturity of life, we dignify him with eulogies, which the true poet, he versifies, could not more have merited. For my part, I only consider as learning that which a man knows by reflection. It is of no consequence to *remember*, that such a word is to be found in Cicero; that the name of one barbarian, succeeded the name of another barbarian; that such fashions prevailed in the reign of such a monarch; and all that multifarious minute trifling which constitutes what most term *learning*. To *reason* on such particulars may enlighten, but to *remember* them is nothing. There is more ingenuity in unriddling charades, and in writing acrostics, than some, who are considered as eminent scholars, exert in their literary labours. It is as rare to find among men of genius, an erudit, as among erudits to discover a man of genius.

Such are they who study fourteen hours a day, and indefatigably push on their heavy systems throughout life. Schioppius detected 500 blunders in 120 pages of Scaliger; and Holstenius discovered 8000 in Baronius! Madame Dacier affirmed she had read Aristophanes 200 times; and one Burlugierius was so insane a reader of Homer, that he was excommunicated for reading him at church. He at last, with restless impatience, undertook an excursion to the fields of Troy, but is supposed to have lost his way. One cannot but smile at the manner with which one of this venerable fraternity closes his *History of the World*: "In my second book, (says he) the world may judge by my reflections and remarks, whether I have discernment and genius." The school of low commentators is admirably depicted, by the terse and lively taste of Armstrong.

"The strong built pedant, who both night and day

Feeds on the coarsest fare the schools bestow,
And crudely fattens at gross Burman's stall."

Many are familiar with the Latin and the Grecian compositions, whom the Latins and the Greeks, full of taste and sensibility, would never have admitted into their society.

Men of an elevated fancy, have ever treated these industrious students with great contempt. Hobbes said, that had he read as much as some learned men, he had been as ignorant as they. Le Clerc observes, in his *Ars Critica*, that had two

authors whom he mentions, read less and digested better, they had produced more useful works. Malebranche asserts, that the proper study of man is truth, considered as it relates to himself; that this can only be found in philosophy, and that history only presents us with trivial or imperfect copies. They conceived more truth to be contained in a moral precept, than in an historical fact; and they, therefore, preferred the cultivation of the understanding, to that of the memory.

This erroneous system has, indeed, been opposed; and Bolingbroke observes from an ancient, that "history is philosophy teaching by example." The censure of Malebranche will, however, be justly pointed at all histories composed by the *mere erudits*. A mass of minute facts may prove the author to be a profound antiquary, but a shallow philosopher; and it may be observed of historical composition, that the philosopher generally begins at those periods where the antiquary concludes.

BRITISH HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The following particulars are taken from an article in the London Observer.

The building in which the House of Commons assembles, was built for a chapel, and is still sometimes called St. Stephen's Chapel. It was founded by king Stephen, and rebuilt by Edward III. in the year 1347. There were placed in a building near, for the use of the chapel, three great bells, which were rung at coronations, triumphs, funerals of princes, and on other great occasions. It was fabled that their ringing soured all the drink in town. Above the largest, it is said, was this label—

"King Edward made mee
Thirtie thousand and three;
Take me down and weigh mee,
And more shall ye find me."

But when the bells were taken down, all three were found to weigh less than 20,000 pounds. It is only since the time of Edward VI. that the chapel has been appropriated to its present use. It has undergone various alterations, but still retains the appearance of a chapel. The wainscoting, the ceiling, the galleries, and the backs of the benches are composed entirely of oak highly varnished. The light is admitted only from one end.

In ancient times the members assembled for the despatch of business as early as seven o'clock in the morning. This was afterwards changed to ten o'clock, and to this day the House adjourns nominally to

ten o'clock, although the hour of meeting is understood to be four, except on certain occasions when there is a special understanding to the contrary—and the House meets at two, three, or half past three, when the king attends parliament. The entrance and departure of the speaker are marked with some ceremony. His approach is announced by a loud exclamation from one of the messengers of "Mr. Speaker," which is a signal to all persons in the lobby, whether members or strangers, to take off their hats. If this mark of respect is not voluntarily shown, it is immediately demanded by the constables. The speaker advances, preceded by the sergeant at arms, bearing the mace, and his secretary, who are both in full dress black suits, with bags and swords. The speaker is dressed in a black silk robe, the train of which is borne by his train bearer, who is also in full dress. The procession is closed by two door keepers, whose duty it is to shut the doors after the speaker has passed.

The manner of proceeding by the speaker before calling the House to order is thus described:

"At a few minutes before four o'clock, the speaker enters the house, and proceeds to the table, where he takes his seat in one of the chairs prepared for the accommodation of the clerks. He then directs the sergeant at arms to call the chaplain, by whom prayers, appointed for the use of the House, previous to the commencement of business, are read. At the conclusion of prayers the chaplain retires, and the speaker counts the members who are present. If there be forty in attendance he immediately takes his own seat. If not, he waits their arrival, and counts them as they enter the house. Should the hour of four, by the house clock, arrive before he obtains forty, he stands up in his own chair, and recommences the ceremony of counting in a slow and deliberate manner, pointing to each member with his *chapeau* as he proceeds. If, on this second counting, the number of forty is still deficient, he announces that the House is adjourned; it is adjourned accordingly, "till the morrow morning, at ten o'clock." The presence of forty members, however, is not at all times considered necessary for the despatch of business, for when the speaker once takes the chair, many of the members retire, and it frequently happens that not above fifteen or twenty remain behind.

The stranger's gallery is computed to afford accommodation to about a hundred and fifty persons. Females are excluded

from it by a standing order, which is preserved in full force. The curiosity of ladies it is stated has frequently induced them to have recourse to the disguise of male apparel, to obtain the privilege of being present during the proceedings of the House.

Members choose their seats every day on coming into the house, and when great public questions are to be debated they secure them for the day only by affixing their names. The ministers and the leading members of the opposition, however, are by courtesy permitted to sit uniformly in the same seats. [Bost. D. Adv.]

Agriculture.



"Let us cultivate the ground, that the poor, as well as the rich, may be filled; and happiness and peace be established throughout our borders."

*From George Worrall to Roberts Vaux,
on different agricultural subjects.*

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Respected Friend—I am not, myself, a practical farmer, owing to other engagements into which I early in life entered; still, nevertheless, the bent of the mind of man is such, that all, I believe, appear more or less pleased with rural and agricultural pursuits. Possessing a farm, over which I necessarily exercise a control, and to the culture of which I have devoted some study, both as regards the most approved system of *cropping*, and the best manner of *manuring*, some opportunity has been occasionally afforded to notice the general practice of tillage in the neighbourhood, by gentlemen of observation in the *art*, who were practical men.

Rotation in cropping of latter years has become so well understood among our agriculturists, as to require little study into the causes, or the benefits resulting

from the system. Experience, no doubt, has demonstrated the *necessity* of a change from one crop to another, as the seasons succeed each other; and whether the *cause* for these successions be scientifically understood by our farmers or not, it is not material to know; the native powers of the earth and the atmospheric effects united, compel conviction of its utility.

Manure, however, with all its effects on the soil, and all its varieties, should be the subject of investigation until fully understood; as forming, in my estimation, the primary *basis*, on which, after all, must depend the fond hopes of the farmer, for an abundant harvest, his fame as a *skilful* agriculturist, and a *reward* for his labour. The variety of soil in Pennsylvania, requires, no doubt, an equal variety of manure; these therefore fully understood by the farmer, nothing could remain but to apply the one to the other, as experience evinced was most agreeable to each other, and best calculated to promote vegetation. The soil, as the human *appetite*, may require variety; nay, it may reject one kind of food as hostile to its very nature; while another kind, equally abundant and cheap, might be received by it freely, and prove agreeable and nutritious. Would not, therefore, an *analysis*, by some gentleman of leisure and abilities, of the different soils, and the different manures known to us, result in useful information, and be of public advantage? The component qualities of the *super stratum* of the earth being known, and the component enriching fertilizing qualities of the respective manures ascertained, their congeniality to each other would be of simple and easy application by the farmer.

Gypsum, although in common use by our best and most intelligent husbandmen, is not well understood either in the operation to produce its effects on vegetation—on the soil—or its component *qualities*. They all bear testimony of the wonderful efficacious properties of it; and yet, two-thirds of them at least, equally wonder what can be its latent operative virtue!

The introduction, however, of *gypsum* into Pennsylvania, and the immense benefits which have arisen from it, as an immediate *stimulus* to vegetation, demonstrably prove the necessity of a succedaneum of some other kind to sustain the active powers of it on the soil, to prevent in time, a total exhaustion of the earth. Hence a supply of *manure* of

another kind, applied annually to the ground, becomes as indispensable an article to the farmer, to sustain his lands, as gypsum itself. I therefore apprehend that manure of some kind, other than that of gypsum, remains to be the *fundamental* base and spring to all our rapid improvements in agriculture. But it has always appeared to me, from the observations which I have been enabled to make on *manure*, its preservation, and application, that our agriculturists of Pennsylvania have adopted a plan more injudicious in the *mode*, than was material as to the *time*. I will relate a *fact* within my knowledge, and then leave the subject, from which thou mayest draw such inferences as thy own judgment and experience will naturally suggest. The experiment was made on *housed dung*, applied to a flat, wet clay soil, completely exhausted and barren.

The field on which the *manure* was laid contained about five acres, the two sides of which were rising from the flat which ran through the centre. A head butt at the top of the flat of about 60 feet broad was left, after the other parts of the enclosure had been abundantly manured from the *open* barn yard; ploughed in and sowed with wheat in the usual way and time. The head butt left, was then spread with *one-half* the quantity of *dung* put on the other parts; but it consisted of *well rotted manure* which had never been exposed to the *air*, *rain* nor *sun*. From the small quantity put on, no expectations were entertained that the product would repay the trouble or for the time of even spreading it on the ground. The *dung*, as put on the ground, was *immediately* ploughed in; and covered, perhaps, under the earth two or three inches, which kept the *action* of the heat of the sun from it. The wheat was then sown and *harrowed* in with a *heavy* harrow. Late in the fall, when the wheat had sprouted and began to spread its leaves, the head land thus manured was completely covered and matted; the leaves of the wheat being of a deep green hue. The other parts of the same field which had been *doubly* supplied with *dung* taken from an *open* exposure was thinly covered with wheat of a yellow tinge. In the succeeding spring, after the snow had left the ground, the wheat on the head butt was of a deep green, and luxuriant in growth, beyond a paral-

lel in the whole neighbourhood. At the usual period for wheat to ear, or head, that which grew on the head butt was at least five inches *higher*, and had much *stronger* stems, than any other in the field. Indeed, its superiority in height and colour was visible as far off as you could behold the colour with the eye. When the heads began to change from the green to the yellow-red, approaching to a state of maturity, the stalk, though unusually strong, yielded to the weight of the head, when all fell and lodged. The same kind of grain on the other part of the field, was thin, weak and stood erect. The produce of that single butt, thus tilled, was double the quantity from an equal proportion of ground to that of any other part of the field, and of better quality.

The clover and timothy grasses on that spot were equally abundant and superior to that which the other part of the field yielded. And the strength and durability of that manure were such, that after the clover and timothy had *run out*, as the farmers call it, on all the other parts, they grew strong and plentifully on this head land. This fact proves to my mind that, to make *manure* is one thing, and to preserve and cure it, is another *material* thing. I am therefore an advocate for *housing* manure; and covering it *under the earth* from the operation of the sun and atmosphere on it, as soon as it is hauled out. Hence my opinion is against putting stable manure on the top of the ground, believing it injudicious and unphilosophical. The idea of housing manure is not *new*—I do not give it as such; but I am sorry indeed that our farmers do not make it a general practice.

I am, with esteem and respect,

Thy friend,

GEO. WORRALL.

Roberts Vaux, Esq.

FROM THE AMERICAN FARMER.

VIRGINIA HUSBANDRY.

Observations made thereon, by the Editor of the American Farmer, on an excursion in that state during the last summer.

The preference which we are bound to give, to other and better materials, over our own experience and speculations, has prevented us from inserting for some weeks past, the few facts we had promised, connected with the agriculture of Virginia.

These facts were collected in our personal intercourse with some of the most intelligent and hospitable farmers on both sides of the Blue Ridge, and may be regarded as, in some sort, an outline representation of the prevailing agricultural practices in these counties respectively.

Approaching very near to Harper's ferry, my attention was arrested by a singular congregation, within a very narrow space of ground, of almost all of the common kinds of trees—within ten feet of each other stand trees which are generally considered the peculiar growth of very opposite soils. The one usually taken as an invariable index of great fertility, its neighbour as the congenial offspring of very barren land. It would seem as if, in the violent rupture of the mountain, by the united forces of the Shenandoah and Potomac, every variety of soil and seed had been brought there and blended together. It was on occasion of mentioning to Mr. Jefferson, some weeks after, this unusual and very proximate association of our forest trees, that he observed that one of the most learned botanists of the present day, remarked to him, that in his rambles over the Monticello estate, he had discovered a greater variety of individuals of the vegetable family than are to be found in all England.

On crossing Harper's ferry, we pass at once into perhaps the most fertile county (Jefferson) in the whole state of Virginia. It was however seen by me under the greatest disadvantages, having been lately shorn of its harvests, and having then for many weeks, suffered under the most intense and long continued drought within the memory of the oldest citizens. Still the stubble exhibited vestiges of luxuriant crops. Fine locust trees shaded and beautified every field, and the growth of oak, hickory and walnut, abundant and vigorous, everywhere proclaim the richness of the pasture which sustains them.

In Charlestown and its vicinity we loitered for some days to enjoy the kindness which opens to all reputable strangers the gates of the Virginia farmer; and here my attention was directed by the neighbours to the "WHEAT LAND," estate, as a model farm, distinguished by its systematic arrangements, the fixed and judicious rotation of its crops, and the fine accommodations of the homestead; where, in a word I should see the skill of a master-hand manifest in all the operations of the field, and hospitality gracefully presiding over, and embellishing the household depart-

ments. The highest anticipations thus excited were pleasantly realized, and the following which is presented without further preliminary, may be taken as a faithful transcript of an agricultural dialogue with Mr. T. the proprietor; it will serve to show in some measure, the range of our inquiries and the objects to which they were directed.

QUERIES.

1st. "The number of acres in your farm, on which you live; and of these, how many arable, how many meadow, and how many wood?"

My farm contains 940 acres—600 arable—10 in timothy meadow—about 20 in grass lots, gardens, homestead, &c.

2d. "Into how many separate fields is your land divided? Have you ascertained the contents of each *by actual survey*?* Please state the actual or supposed number of acres in each field."

I have 6 fields of 90 acres each, which go through a regular rotation of wheat, corn and clover, according to the enclosed table, an extra field containing 70 acres, one half of which produces corn, the other rye *every year*. (My object in this experiment is to ascertain whether land under this severe operation can be sustained without any other manure than Plaster of Paris—the system was commenced six years ago, when the land was in a state of considerable impoverishment at the time I purchased it—and I think it has rather improved—I am certain there has been no declension.) Some of my fields have "been actually surveyed," others have not, (having added to my farm by various purchases,) but I intend having them all surveyed this fall.

3d. "Of what do your crops consist?—and what is the rotation observed in the culture of them, and the average produce per acre of the different kinds of produce cultivated? Please state also the largest crop you have made per acre of each throughout a field, and the largest you have known to be so made in your county."

The table already referred to, illustrates the first and second of the foregoing interrogatories. My average produce of wheat, I conceive to be about 23 bushels per acre, of corn not more than 25. The largest crop of wheat I have ever made, was last year, (1819), from a field of 60 acres. I made 30 bushels per acre—from another

of 100 acres, I made 24 bushels per acre—and from another of 40 acres, (*Lolla*) not more than 17 per acre. (A circumstance worthy of being noticed occurred in relation to this last mentioned field. For the sake of experiment, I ploughed in the month of June, about 6 acres of this field—in August the whole field was ploughed, and seeded alike the first of October. The 6 acres produced by computation, 8 bushels per acre more than the remainder which received but one ploughing;—the wheat during the whole progress of its growth, was more vigorous and luxuriant—the land light and moist, of a rich black complexion—while the other was arid, hard and white. The soil of this field was a mixture of clay and slate. In an adjoining field of rich loam, the same experiment was not attended with a similar effect.) The largest crop of corn I have made, was 40 bushels per acre from a field of 90 acres—this happened eight or ten years ago. Whether it be solely owing to the droughts that have so severely prevailed for several years past, or be the result of other and combined causes, I know not; but certain it is that the corn crop of this region has declined, while that of every species of small grain has increased in equal ratio. Our crops of clover have likewise become exceedingly precarious, and often wholly fail. I have succeeded with clover better than my neighbours. I sow in February on a snow—they in March on the bare ground.

The largest crop of wheat I have ever known per acre, was made by my neighbour and friend, Warner Washington, esq.—550 bushels from 10 acres.

4th. "What is your number of regular working hands, and how many bushels of grain of all kinds do you generally calculate on making for each working hand? the year being seasonable?"

I employ 10 regular working hands,—(I never hire for any purpose)—and generally calculate on making 8000 bushels of grain, to wit, 4500 wheat, 500 rye, and 3000 Indian corn, or 800 bushels to the hand.

5th. "Please state your opinion as to the best manner of cultivating Indian corn, and the implements you most approve for that purpose."

The most approved mode in this county, is the following:—The field is first broken up in the spring (perhaps the fall would be better) deep; with a large three horse bar-share plough; then harrowed with a heavy harrow, having 20 large iron teeth; then

* This ought to be done by every farmer as soon as his division fences are permanently fixed.—*Editor*.

laid off 4 feet each way, and planted 2 stalks in a hill: when the corn is about 6 inches high, it is harrowed with the same large harrow, after which it receives two ploughings with the shovel plough, and immediately preceding harvest, it is an advantage to pass over the field with *cultivators*, for the purpose of levelling the surface.

6th. "To what extent have you practised the business of grazing?—On this point it is desired that you state your practice, as to where or when you procure your cattle, if not raised on your own farm—if bought, at what age do you usually buy?—How long do you keep them; and especially how are they fed and managed from the time, if purchased, to the time of sale? Do you drive them to market, or sell them on your farm? What is about the increase per cent. in weight, while in your possession, and the general advance per cent. of the selling price when fattened, over the prime cost?"*

I have for some years grazed from 90 to 100 steers. They are bought from western drovers, passing through the neighbourhood in the months of September and October. They are usually three and four years old—they are kept about 12 months—they are sustained through the winter on corn shucks and wheat straw, and fattened the succeeding summer on fields of clover—they have no grain whatever—the manner of feeding them in winter, is in racks of rough structure, made of common fence rails in the field. They have no other shelter than such as the woods afford. It is found very *injurious to ficonne them*. They require little salt in winter, but must be regularly watered. In summer they are moderately salted twice a week. They are sold on the farm. I think the increase per cent. in weight, is about 33 1-3, and the advance per cent. of the sales over the prime cost, has never been less than 100, until the last two years, when there has been not only a great difficulty in effecting sales, but a considerable reduction in the profits. The prime cost has generally been from \$15 to \$20—it is now somewhat lower.

* I was the more particular in my inquiries on this subject, because it was entirely new, and very interesting to me, as respected the details, and I felt persuaded that many of my subscribers would be gratified to learn from a source so experienced and intelligent, how the grazing system is conducted on the rich lands of Virginia, distant from tide water market.

Editor.

7th. "Do you use the mule? and if so, what number, in the cultivation of your land, or for the transportation of produce? Please state your opinion of its working powers—its fidelity to the draught—how long it will live with careful treatment, in good working condition?—its liability to diseases—and its value in comparison with farm horses of the best quality?—and finally how many mules are there, probably in your county in proportion to the number of farms?"

I have but 6 mules, and they are used indiscriminately in the cultivation of my farm, and in the transportation of my produce with the best farm horses; my experience authorizes me to say that in *every particular* specified in the above interrogatory, they are *decidedly preferable and superior to the horse*. As to the inquiry how long they will live, &c. I have not myself lived long enough to ascertain that fact, having never lost one from old age. I once knew a mule on my father's estate, which bore evident marks of longevity, and indeed seemed somewhat superannuated—his head was grey, and his powers impaired. By tradition he was *upwards of fifty* years old, when he was sold for \$20, and had been abused all his life. How much longer he lived I was never informed. The senseless and cruel prejudices entertained almost universally in relation to this inestimable animal—these "most useful and most abused friends of man," have denied them the opportunity of displaying their intrinsically valuable qualities to advantage, and the ungrateful parsimony which withholds from them oftentimes, the frugal supply which nature demands, compels them to trespass and depredate on enclosed fields, subjects them to augmented calumny and adds virulence to the popular and unfounded prejudices originally conceived against them. I have never found them more prone to mischief than horses—but mine are of the *Maltese* breed, which are much superior to the Spanish.† They are larger, stronger, more docile and more spirited. The whole number of mules in this county does not probably amount to a dozen!—[Mark the inerradicable influence of prejudice!!!—

Editor.

8th. "Are oxen used for agricultural

† A previous acquaintance with this fact, and the confirmation of it by authority so conclusive, induced the editor to take great pains to get the best Maltese Jack, for his breeding stock establishment at Bovally farm, on the Frederick road.—Editor.

purposes by you, or in your neighbourhood?—if so, for what purposes?—and might they not in your judgment be more extensively substituted for horses with advantage to the agriculturist?”

There is, it is believed, no instance of the ox being used in this county for the above purposes. I have always kept one yoke myself, and have found them extremely useful and valuable for other purposes, and have no doubt that they might be made in a considerable degree to supersede the horse, “with advantage to the agriculturist.”

9th. “It is desired to know your own and the general system of slave management in your county. That is as to hours of labour, food, clothing, fuel and habitations. Have you adopted any expedients to economise the use of fuel?—if so, please state them.”

There is in fact little or no “system of management” in regard to our slaves—they are insubordinate and *unmanageable*. The licentious doctrines that are propagated, and the inducements held out to them to abscond from our service by the inhabitants of a neighbouring state, have established a baneful influence on their manners, rendered them discontented and useless, and greatly impaired the tenure by which we hold them. My negroes go forth at about sunrise in the morning. Those who plough seldom commence until the sun is an hour high—they breakfast about 8 or 9 o’clock; dine about 1, when they (the ploughmen) rest, with their horses an hour or two, and all cease to labour at sunset; when they repair to their quarters, sup, and give themselves up to domestic indulgence, social pleasures, and, the more industrious to various employments, for their own benefit, by which many derive considerable emolument. Their clothing is excellent, consisting chiefly of home-made cloth. Their habitations are very comfortable, and they scarcely know any restraint in the consumption of fuel, although it is often purchased at the rate of from \$50 to \$60 per acre, (the wood leased) from land but moderately timbered. For the sake of economy, I have adopted the use of the Dutch stove. My negro houses being constructed of hewn logs are very warm and comfortable, each of which is furnished with one of these stoves, notwithstanding the consumption of fuel is very great and expensive, particularly in the item of hauling, which is constant and laborious throughout the season of winter—but there is nevertheless a considerable saving in

this mode, compared with the wide, deep chimnies which generally prevail. Their breakfasts generally consist of bread and milk, or salted herring; their dinners of bacon and vegetables, and they have meat for their suppers, all who have families being allowed the privilege of raising their own hogs, and all without distinction, poultry, without limitation. There is, I am persuaded, no peasantry upon the face of the earth who possess as many comforts, as few cares, and as ample means of happiness as our slaves.*

(To be continued.)

Variety.

PROSING.

A dull country magistrate once gave Dr. Johnson a long, tedious account of his exercising his criminal jurisdiction, the result of which was his having sentenced four convicts to transportation. The Dr. in an agony of impatience to get rid of such a companion, exclaimed, “I heartily wish, sir, that I were a fifth.”

CONVERSATION.

Dr. Johnson used to say, that he made it a constant rule to talk as *well* as he could, both as to sentiment and expression; by which means, what had been originally effort became familiar and easy.

CHOICE OF AMUSEMENTS.

Sir Joshua Reynolds having one day said, that he took the altitude of a man’s taste by his stories and his wit, and of his understanding by the remarks which he repeated; being always sure that he must be a weak man who quotes common things with an emphasis as if they were oracles; Johnson agreed with him, and Sir Joshua having also observed, that the real character of a man was found out by his amusements, Johnson added, “Yes, sir; no man is a hypocrite in his pleasures.”

EX POST FACTO LAWS.

It is justly observed by Shenstone, in his prefatory Essay to the *Elegies*, that “discourses prefixed to poetry, inculcate

* To the truth of this we yield our heart’s assent. The treatment and management of slaves, so *justly* represented above, is much the same through the twelve counties we visited—every source of solid comfort is supplied, and all occasion of care and responsibility is abstracted—excepting only the enjoyment of certain political privileges.—*Editor*.

such tenets as may exhibit the performance to the greatest advantage. The fabric is first raised, and the measures by which we are to judge of it, are afterwards adjusted." This observation might be exemplified by many. It will be sufficient to observe, with what art, both Pope and Fontenelle, have drawn up their essays on the nature of pastoral poetry, that the rules they wished to establish might be adapted to their own pastorals. Has accident made some ingenious student apply himself to a subordinate branch of literature, or to some science which is not highly esteemed? look in the preface for its sublime panegyric. Collectors of coins, dresses, and butterflies, have astonished the world with eulogiums which would raise their particular studies into the first ranks of philosophy.

FALSE PREFACES.

The boldest preface liar was Aldus Manutius, who having printed an edition of Aristophanes, first published in the preface, that St. Chrysostom was accustomed to place this comic poet under his pillow, that he might always have his works at hand. As in that age, a saint was supposed to possess every human talent, good taste not excepted, Aristophanes thus recommended became a general favourite. The anecdote lasted for near two centuries; and what was of greater consequence to Aldus, quickened the sale of his Aristophanes. This ingenious invention of the prefacer of Aristophanes, at length was detected by Menage.

WARBURTON

In his pompous edition of Shakspeare, informs the public, that his notes "were among his *younger amusements*, when he turned over these *sort of writers*." This ungracious compliment to Shakspeare and the public, merited that perfect scourging which our haughty commentator received from the sarcastic canons of criticism.

HISTORY.

The historian frequently seems ignorant of that spontaneous ardour with which the most splendid actions are performed, and discovers a regular plot in the accidental combinations of fortune. Every statesman who comes down to us as a Nestor, I doubt was not the sage we believe him to have been; nor every general, the Achilles he appears. The most

eminent personages are not so remotely removed from the level of ordinary humanity, as the vulgar conceive. Transcendent powers are rarely required; tolerable abilities, placed conspicuously, appear to great advantage; as a lighted torch held in the hand is too common an object to fix our attention, but that torch placed favourably on a hill, would excite our admiration. He who is persuaded of this truth, will be more inclined to search for the characters of eminent persons in their domestic privacies, than in their public audiences; and would prefer the artless recitals of the valet de chambre of Charles I. to the elegant narrative of his apologist Hume.

ROCHEFOUCAULT'S MAXIMS.

It was a happy idea of Amelot de la Houssaie, when he gave an edition of these admirable maxims, to illustrate several from examples, or anecdotes, drawn from history. If they were all thus illustrated, by well collected authorities, it would form not only a rich repast for amateurs of anecdotes, but impress more forcibly the solid sense, sometimes too closely compressed in these concise maxims.

ANECDOTES.

A skilful writer of anecdotes, gratifies by suffering us to make something that looks like a discovery of our own; he gives a certain activity to the mind, and the reflections appear to arise from ourselves. He scatters unperceivably seeds, and we see those flowers start up, which we believe to be of our own creation.

Poetry.

THE TAILOR'S WIFE.

The Tailor's wife! avaunt ye peaceful few;
Her voice will pierce your very temples through;
The Tailor's wife; these words of direful sound,
Spread consternation through the village round;
Awake the drum, arouse the trumpet's blare,
And shake with dissonance the startled air.
Let asses bray—attack the swelling gong,
And pour a tempest through my maddened song!
The Tailor's wife, in wild tornado comes!
Mute are the trumpets, silent are the drums;
On zephyr wings the *eastern* music floats,
And asses bray through more melodious throats.
She comes! she treads! in all her furious sway;
The dogs run backwards to accede her way;
The solid earth, beneath her sounding feet,
With inward palpitations seems to beat.
Now, wo to thee, O less than mortal wight!
Scarce ninth-part "Man," in such a woful plight,

What can avail thee now, thy wonted jeers,
That cut with all the keenness of thy *shears*—
Thy mirth-provoking, rage-allaying wit?—
These qualities, alas! avail thee not.
In vain thy throne of more than Turkish pride,
The sceptre Lap-board resting at thy side;
Thy primate *Goose*, by public zeal inspired,
Against thine enemies to fury fired;
Thy needle *Ministers*, of sharpest steel,
That stitch the garments of the commonweal;
Thy life-guard *Prentices*, that speak thy power—
Avail thee nothing in this trying hour.
The storm drives onward with increasing force,
Nor may'st thou brook its brunt, nor stem its course;

Down on thy knees, ask pardon, *Snip*, and tell
The sovereign sway of all-subduing "*Bell*;"
And to each *mated* lord a lesson give,
How he in harmony and peace may live,
Avert the tear of injured *pride*, and prove
The unresisting tool of wedded love.

Oh, dared the poet half his mind explain,
What arts are used a husband to retain
In bondage. With what woe and wail,
What fume, fret, sulk, our fortress they assail,
How they will scold—and should we silence keep,

For very rage, how they will sob and weep—
Misfortunes father on our heads, and see
With after-thought into futurity;
Instruct us of our danger when 'tis o'er,
Affirm they prophesied it all before;
For God knows what, how they will threap and throw,

Forget the subject, false conclusions draw;
Then lord it o'er us, with a mighty air,
And scarcely grant us, in our home, a chair.
Oh, dared he *thus* the wedded dames to brave,
What power could cover, what repentance save;
And *He* who penn'd the treasonable lay,
Might ne'er forget it till his dying day!

Literature and Science.

Compiled for the National Recorder.

Education of the Poor.—If the school for poor children at Hoffwyl demonstrates the happy influence of a moral education upon a large scale, it is a fact that similar results may be obtained in smaller establishments. There exists a poor woman who has devoted herself to the education of unhappy orphans, without any other resource than public and private charity. She has eight of these orphans, and supports them as well as herself with twenty-nine francs per month. Her dwelling costs her four francs per month, so that there remains only a *batz* per day for the maintenance of each individual. The children are nevertheless in good condition, and nothing in their exterior indicates misery. This wonder of economy is still surpassed by the ability with which this respectable woman supports her authority, and instils into her children habits of order, neatness and the

love of labour. She has been led instinctively to adopt the Lancasterian mode of education, by assigning to the elder the instruction of the younger children. Would it be difficult to find in each district females thus qualified, who might serve for two or three villages, and who might be furnished with lodgings, fuel, and a small lot of ground, which the pupils would help her to cultivate? Government might encourage such establishments, by granting a premium to the communes who formed them. The following is an instance similar to the above: The widow Rumph, aged seventy years, residing near Bethury, supports, with less than thirty francs a month, five boys and three little girls. These children are remarkable for their lively and happy countenances, their good condition and polite behaviour. The widow Rumph has been the mother of fifteen children, and has nursed thirty-two at her own breast.

A Dictionary of the Greek Language, ancient and modern, is now in the course of publication at the patriarchal press at Constantinople. It will form more than six large folio volumes, the first of which has already appeared. This important work is under the auspices of the present patriarch Gregorius, a native of Peloponnesus, a prelate as virtuous as he is enlightened.

The grand college of Chios has already become a kind of European university. Ambrosios Argentes, one of its pupils, aged seventeen years, has just published a discourse on navigation, in which he exhorts, with much ardour, his countrymen to engage in commercial navigation as an imperishable source of riches and prosperity.

Marseilles.—There has been brought here from London a kind of potato, which is a prodigy of vegetation. A single tubercule has produced 1.058 kilogrammes (2.160 pounds) of potatoes, the quality of which is excellent.

Dieppe.—P. Nicole, an apothecary of Dieppe, has succeeded in distilling sea water so as to deprive it of the disagreeable odour which it is so apt to retain. This he has effected, by causing the vapour to ascend through a stratum of charcoal.

New Hydraulic Ram.—M. Godin, Rue de Poliveau No. 2, Paris, has invented

a new hydraulic ram, of such simplicity as to be easily executed by any village ploughman.

It is adapted to the raising of water for agricultural and economical purposes. M. Godin furnishes those who desire it with engraved representations of his machine, accompanied with instructions for its fabrication, and, if desired, a model in relief.

Sea Signals.—Experiments have been made in the neighbourhood of Paris upon a new kind of nautical telegraph, intended to furnish by day and by night the means of enabling seamen to communicate with each other, and with a neighbouring coast, in all languages, at the distance of three or four leagues. This improvement may be the means of diminishing the number of shipwrecks.

Remarkable Petrification.—A tree, about twenty-six inches in diameter, has been found in the actual erect condition in which it grew, but in a state of complete petrification, in a sandstone quarry near Glasgow in Scotland. The body of the tree itself is composed of sandstone similar to the rest of the quarry; but the bark has been converted into a perfect cherry coal, which adheres firmly to the tree, and renders it easy to remove from the rock with which the tree is encrusted. About three feet of the bottom part has been uncovered. This portion is situated about forty feet below the surface of the earth in a solid quarry of sandstone. The roots may be seen dipping into the earth, precisely as the roots of living trees do. Four large roots may be seen issuing from the trunk, and extending about a foot before they are lost in the quarry. The upper part of the trunk and branches has not been traced. This petrification demonstrates that the sandstone has been formed at a period posterior to the existence of large trees and that the water-worn appearance of the quartz and pebbles of which the sandstone is composed, is not a deceitful indication, as some geologists would persuade, but quite correct. But if the sandstone, which constitutes so great a proportion of the coal beds, be a formation posterior to the earth's being covered with wood, we can entertain no doubt that this is the case also with the slate-clay and the coal, which alternates with this sandstone. If the coal formation exists as a portion of the old red sandstone,

we can entertain no reasonable doubt, that the old red sandstone itself has been formed after the earth was covered with wood; and if it turn out to be true, as there is some reason for believing, that the transition and source of the primitive rocks alternate with the old red sandstone, we must conclude that these rocks also have been formed after the earth was covered with wood.

Doctor Wood proposes to deliver a course of lectures on chemistry, during the three ensuing months. The lectures will be given Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evening.

The price of the ticket will be ten dollars. Due notice will be given of the commencement of the course and other particulars.

The subscriber having devoted the greatest part of his life to pharmaceutical and chemical preparations, proposes to deliver a course of lectures on these subjects, in which will be exhibited every process and combination made use of in the ordinary practice of medicine and the arts. The same lectures will include the commerce and natural history of drugs, &c.

Subscriptions papers will be found at the stores of Messrs. Samuel P. Wetheril & Co. No. 65, north Front street; Messrs. Littell & Henry, booksellers, No. 74, south Second street; and the Hall of the Academy of Natural Sciences. G. TROOST.

Officers of the Board of Health for 1821.

Dr. Samuel Jackson, president; Dr. Samuel Emlen, secretary; Joseph R. Jenks, treasurer; Joseph Pryor, clerk; John Robbins, steward of the Lazaretto; John Buckingham, messenger—Dr. Alex. Knight, port physician; William Mandry, health officer; Dr. G. F. Lehman, lazaretto physician; H. Kenyon, quarantine master.

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